MARVEL®
9th May 92
No 119 55p
THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.
Now on TV!
WELCOME TO OUR RAILWAY OPEN DAY!

NOTICEBOARD

Many special events take place on the Island of Sodor and many visitors attend them! The Fat Controller has to make sure that railway events run smoothly. In the story that begins on page 3, Thomas makes one particular event very enjoyable for everyone! Don't miss our second story either when Thomas helps a racing pigeon to return safely to it's home!

SPLENDID COMPETITION!

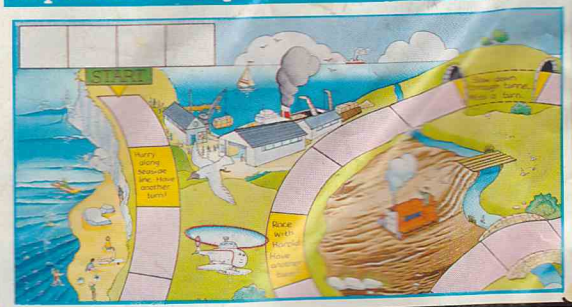
In our next issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** you will have another chance to win one of a super selection of toys from *ERTL(UK)Ltd*, including a **Thomas Remote Control** engine, **3-piece diecast playset** and a **Thomas standard diecast model**! Don't delay! Order your copy today!

THOMAS ON TV!

Don't miss more new and exciting episodes of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** on the *ITV Network* coming soon! **"Henry's Forest** will be screened on ***Tuesday April 28th***, and **"The trouble with mud"** on ***Tuesday May 5th***. Both episodes will be screened at *3.55pm*!

THOMAS GAME!

There will be a special four part **Thomas Dice** game which will begin in our very next issue **(120)** and finish with issue**(124)**. Don't miss your important first part! **(shown below)**



HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card**, just send one **red**, **yellow** and **blue** token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

Name .....

Address .....

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Postcode ..... **Age** .....

THOMAS TOKEN

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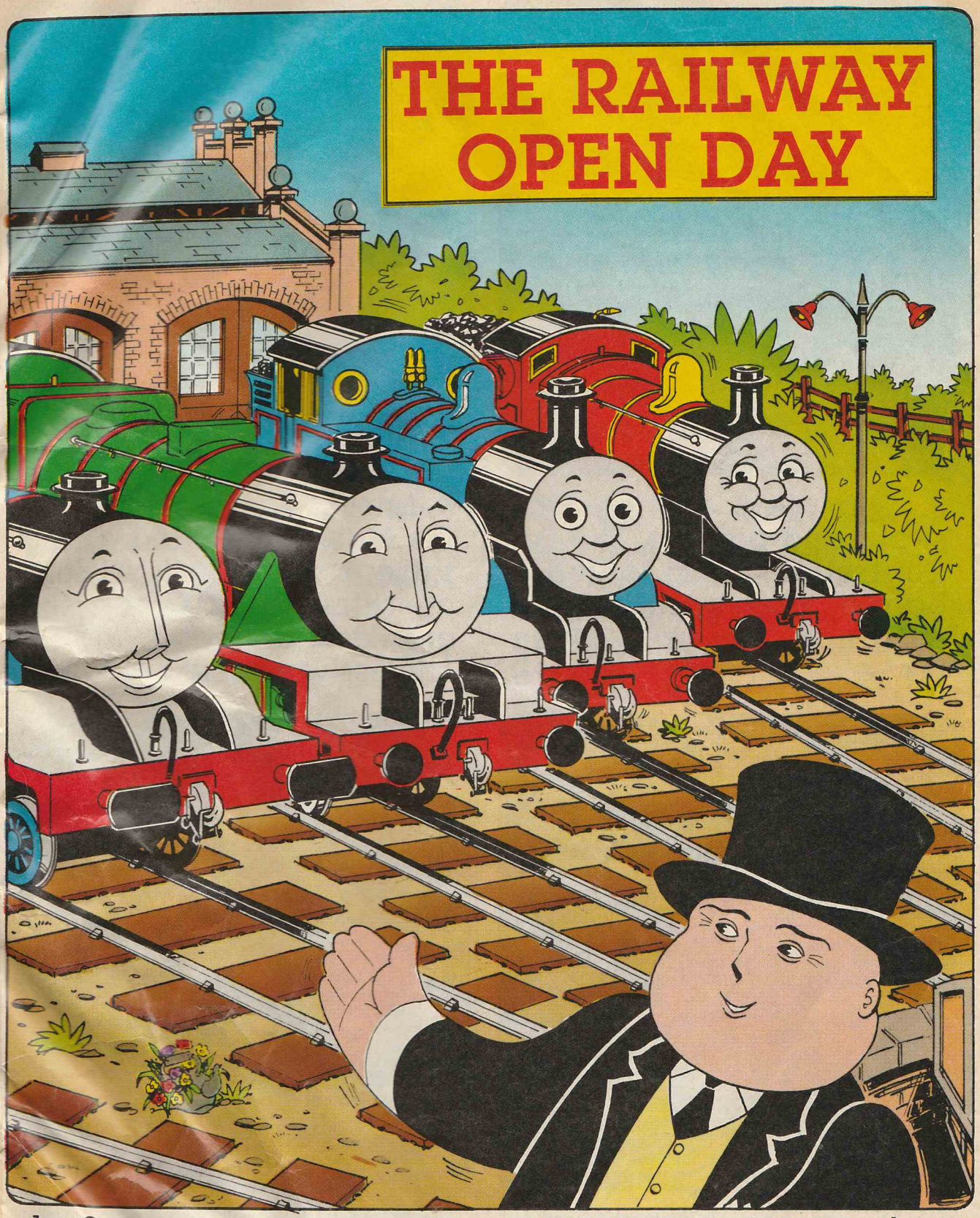
THE RAILWAY OPEN DAY

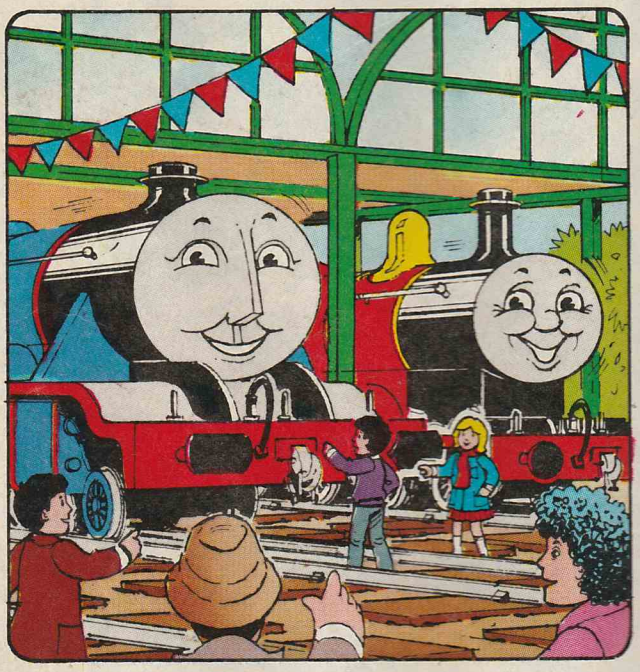


1. One morning, the Fat Controller went to see his engines. "We are to have a Railway Open Day," he said. "What is a Railway Open Day?" asked Thomas.

2. "It's a day when people on the Island of Sodor can visit and learn about the railway," explained the Fat Controller. All the engines were cleaned for the event.

3. The Main Station was swept and painted. The Fat Controller's guards tied a banner above the station entrance. 'Railway Open Day' it read.

4. Lines of flags were hung in the Main Station and a long table was laid with all sorts of refreshments. As the crowds arrived, all the engines were very excited.



5. "I am the biggest and strongest engine!" boasted Gordon. "Everyone will want to see me!" "And me!" called James. "They'll be impressed by my fine red coat!"

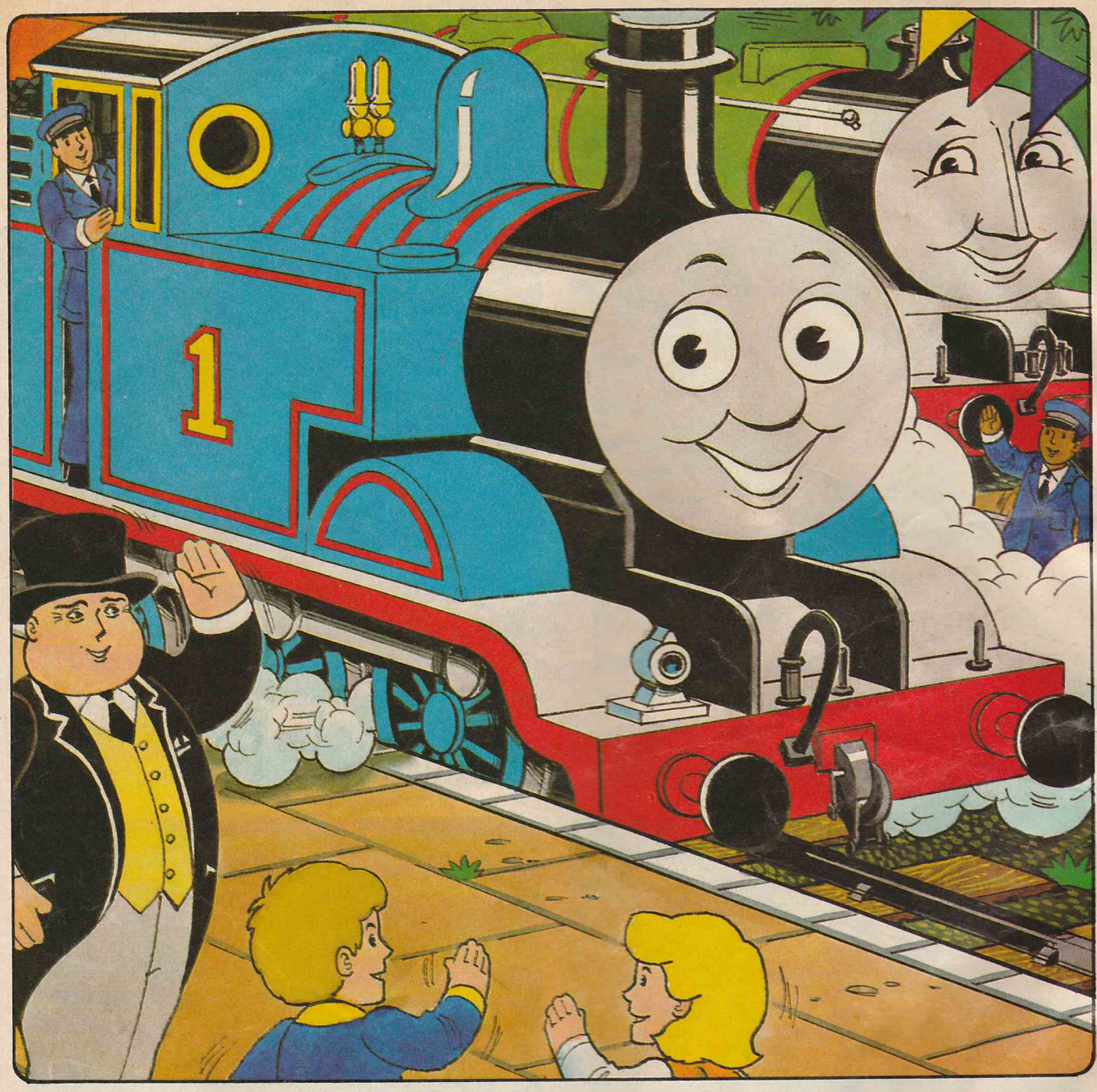
6. "People would rather see diesel engines!" Diesel said in his oily voice. Daisy agreed. "I'm thoroughly modern and bang up to date!" Bill and Ben began to chuckle.

7. "The children will be very surprised to see the two of us!" laughed Bill. "Perhaps they will want to see me, too," said Henry, "especially for my bright green colour!"

8. Soon, the Main Station Yard was full of visitors. The engines were a very big attraction. The drivers let the children look inside their cabs. But Thomas felt sad.

9. He was standing at the far end of the yard. Because he was so far away, some visitors did not bother to go and look at him. They went for refreshments instead.

10. Meanwhile, the Fat Controller was worried. "There are so many visitors, we are running out of food and drink for them! We must get more supplies!" he said.



11. The Fat Controller telephoned Wellsworth to order extra food. Then he spoke to Thomas. "You are to collect more supplies from Wellsworth Station!" The other engines overheard. "The Fat Controller didn't send us because we're too busy!" Thomas was pleased to be chosen. "People will be able to see me now!" he thought.

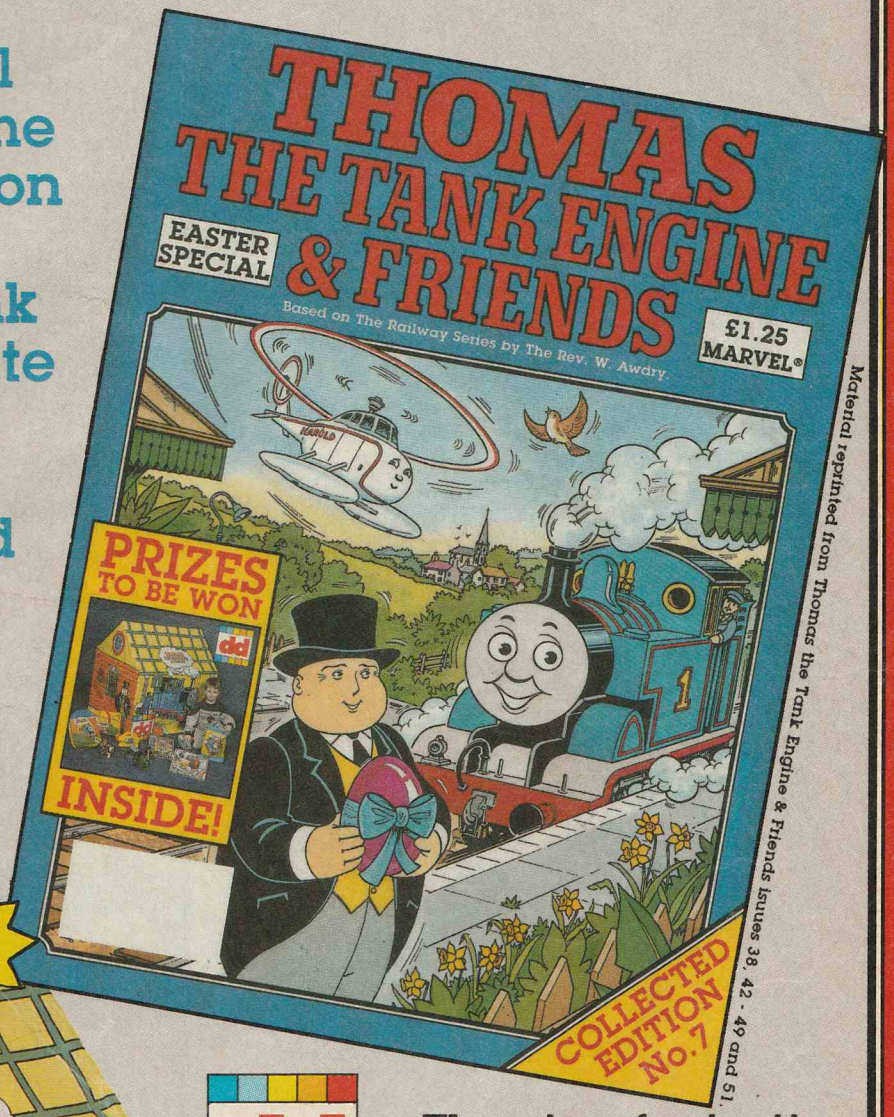
12. Soon Thomas bustled back into the Main Station with all the refreshments. A big crowd was waiting for him. "Now everyone can see me!" he smiled. The crowd cheered and waved as Thomas passed by. "Hurray for Thomas! Now we can have a nice cup of tea! What a helpful engine!" Thomas felt much more cheerful now!

THE END

In our next issue: Behind schedule!

EASTER SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

Peep! Peep! All aboard, for the latest compilation of some of Thomas the Tank Engine's favourite stories, puzzles and activities inside the brand new, splendid Collected Edition No. 7! Order your copy TODAY!



ON SALE NOW!

There's a fantastic competition, too! In which 10 lucky entrants will each win a splendid Thomas Playhouse, Backpack, Picture Blocks, Travel Bag, Duffle Bag, Vinyl Toys, Projector, Tap-a-Peg, Wipe Away and Humming Top!

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Percy's spooky tooth!

"Woo-woo-oo!" whistled the ghost train eerily as it rolled out of the dark tunnel..."

It was night time and the Fat Controller's engines were in the shed. Percy was telling a ghost story. "Appearing through the swirling mist, the glowing engine roared on without a driver or fireman."

"Pah! Ridiculous!" huffed Thomas. "Anyone knows engines need their drivers! I don't believe in ghost trains!"

"You're just trying to scare us, Percy!" shivered Edward.

"Be quiet so I can get some rest!" added James.

Thomas closed his eyes. But he could not sleep for a long time. He kept thinking about Percy's glowing ghost train.

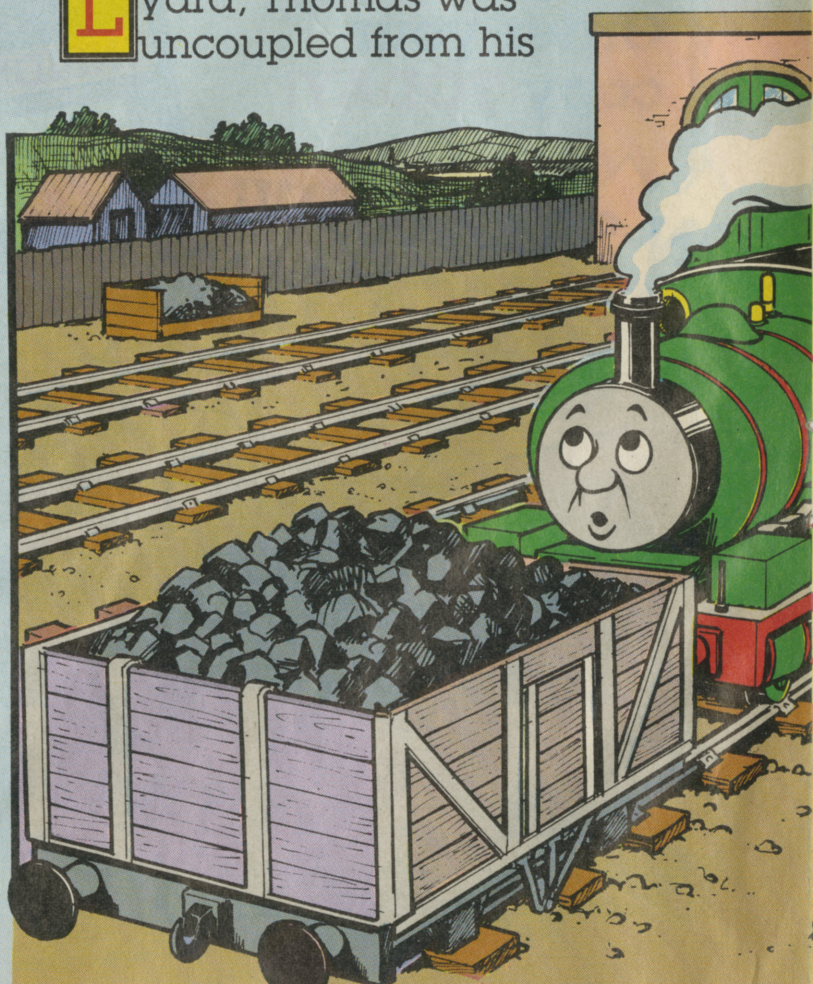
Next day, the Fat Controller sent Thomas to the harbour to collect a shipment of big clay pipes. On the way, Thomas came to a tunnel and he became nervous. He remembered Percy's ghost story. Thomas shut his eyes and hurried through the tunnel. He could hear a loud 'woo-wooing' noise.

"B...buffers and boilers!" gasped Thomas. "It's the ghost train!"

But it was only Percy coming along the opposite line! You look as though you've just seen a ghost! "Woo-woo!" Percy teased. The noise that frightened Thomas was Percy blowing his whistle. It echoed eerily in the tunnel.

When Thomas arrived at the harbour, a crane lifted the pipes off a ship and on to Thomas's trucks. Then he set off for the Main Station. Thomas rushed through the tunnel again. He was glad that Percy was not there to tease him.

Later, in the Main Station yard, Thomas was uncoupled from his

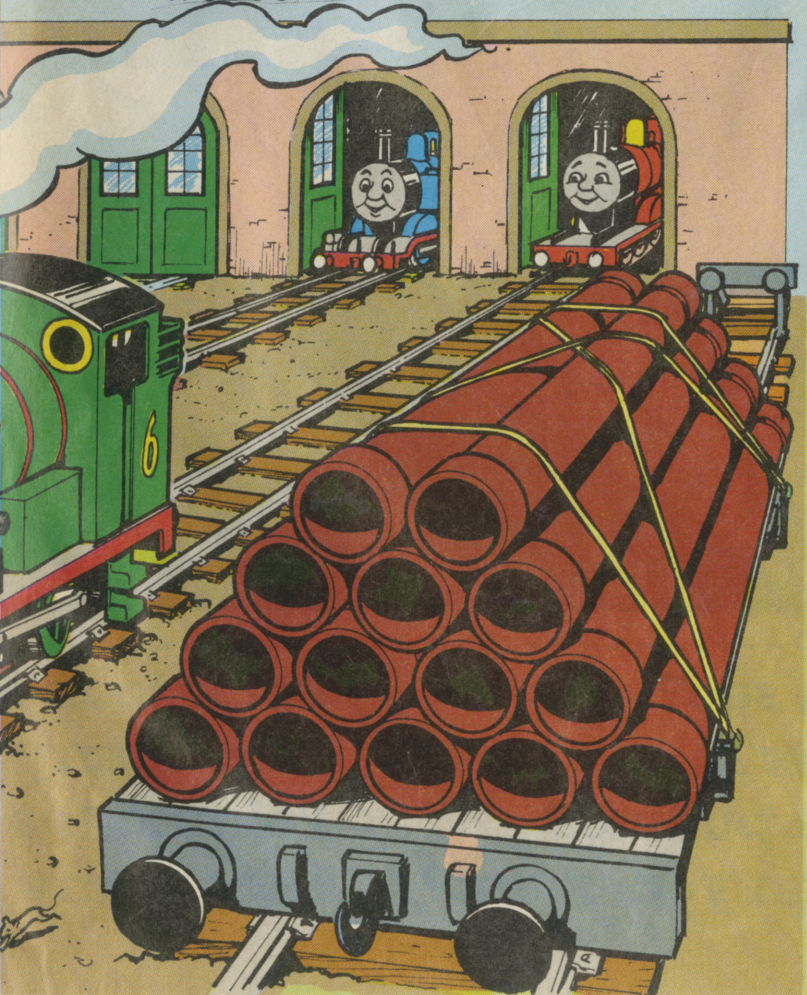


trucks. They were left in a siding for the night. Percy was shunting coal trucks nearby.

"Hurry to the engine shed, Thomas," he laughed. "It will soon be dark and the ghost train will soon be rolling out of the tunnel!"

It was getting windy. The moon began to rise. Thomas was pleased to join the other engines in the shed. Percy was still shunting the coal trucks in the yard when a strange sound startled him. 'Woo-woo-oo!' it went.

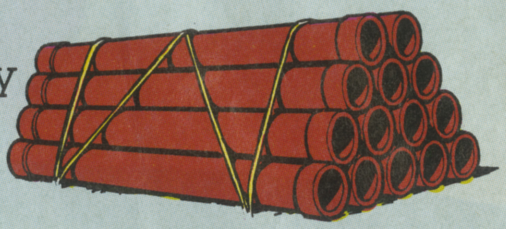
Percy felt chilled to the rails. He listened very carefully. At first, he could only hear the wind. Then came the eerie sound again. 'Woo-oo-woooo!"



Percy was frightened. "Thomas he called..help! Wait for me!" Percy hurried back to the shed as fast as his wheels could carry him.

"Hah! You can't fool us!" said Thomas grumpily.

"You're stories sound very silly, Percy!" protested James."I refuse to be frightened by them."



Later, as the other engines slept, Percy was still awake. Outside, the wind blew. Every now and then Percy thought he heard a faint 'woo-oo".

The next day, Percy was so tired. He could hardly keep his eyes open. Thomas followed Percy into the windy yard. Both engines were startled to hear the eerie howl. 'WOO-OO-OOO!'

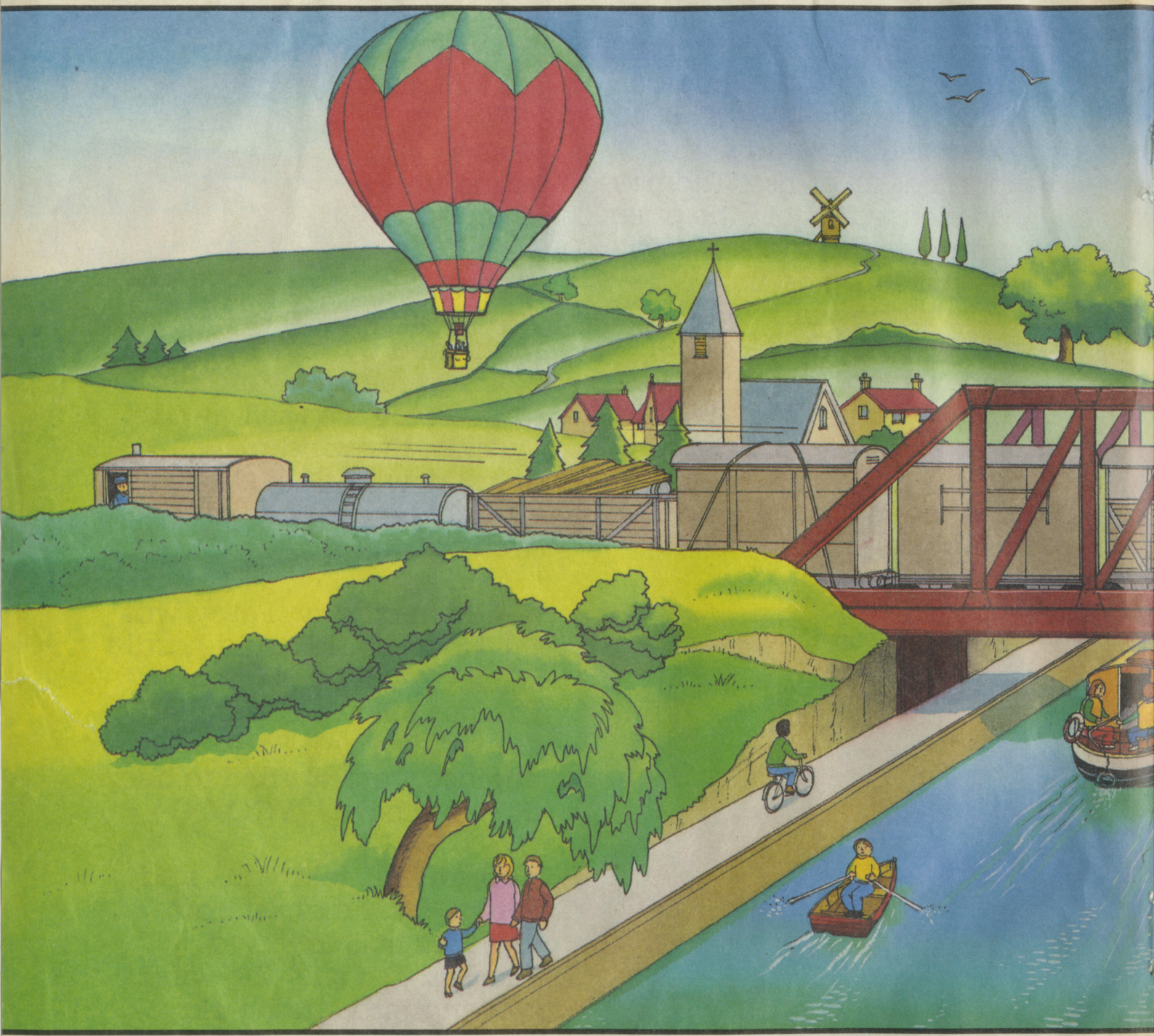
"Listen! I t...told you!" said Percy. "It's the ghost train!"

"No it's not!" laughed Thomas. "It's only the wind blowing through the clay pipes I left in the siding!"

Percy felt very silly indeed. "Now who's a scaredy-cab!" said Thomas.

THE END!

Over the big



Which engine can you see?
What is he passing over?
How many trucks is he pulling?
How many balloons can you count?

Point to the
How many
Point to the
How many

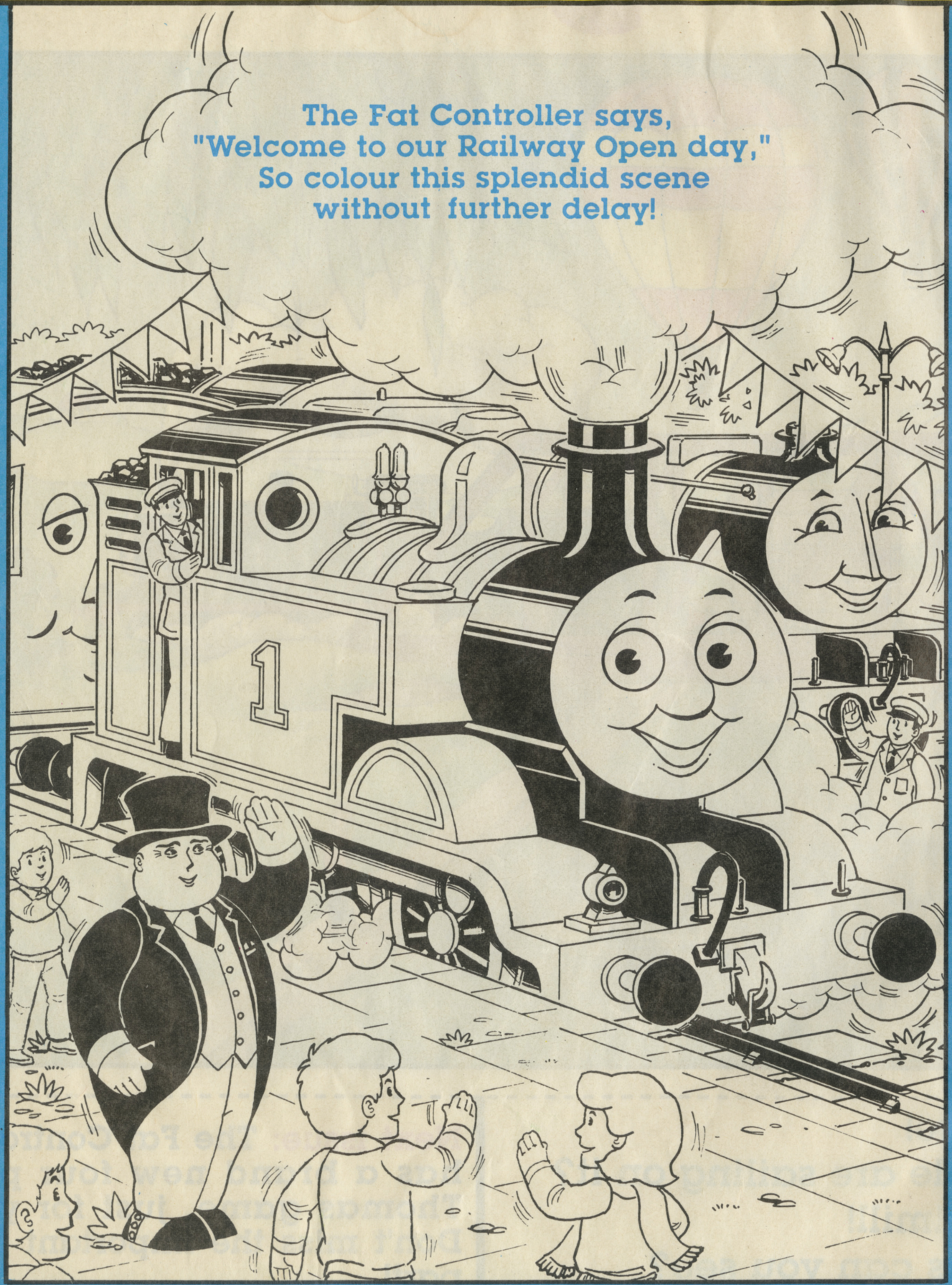
bridge!

barge!
people are sailing on it?
windmill!
ducks can you see?

Next issue: The Fat Controller has a brand new four part Thomas game, just for you! Don't miss the important first part!

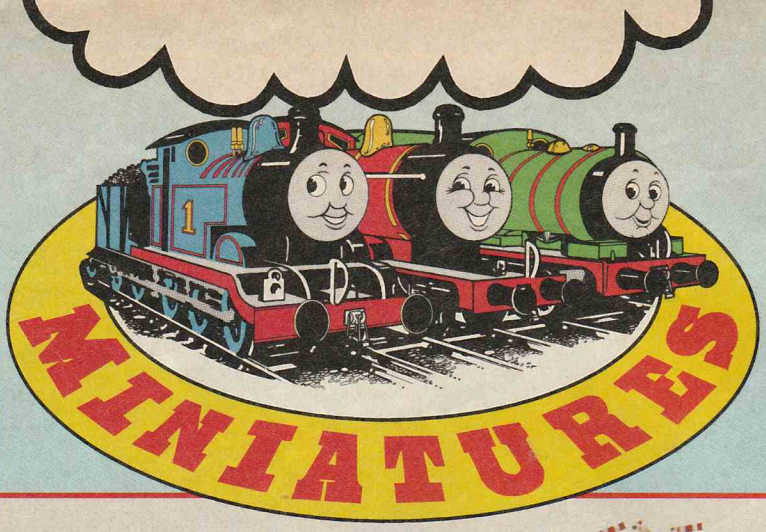
COLOURING TIME!

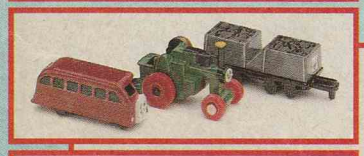
The Fat Controller says,
"Welcome to our Railway Open day,"
So colour this splendid scene
without further delay!

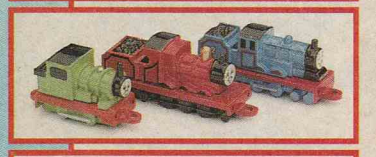


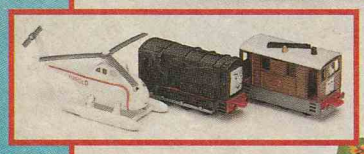
JOIN THE DOTS!

It's Springtime and Trevor has to look his best, but Join the dots to see who is perched on the nest!









Some of these products are only available during 1993

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

ERTL® **Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends available in your local toy shop or store.**

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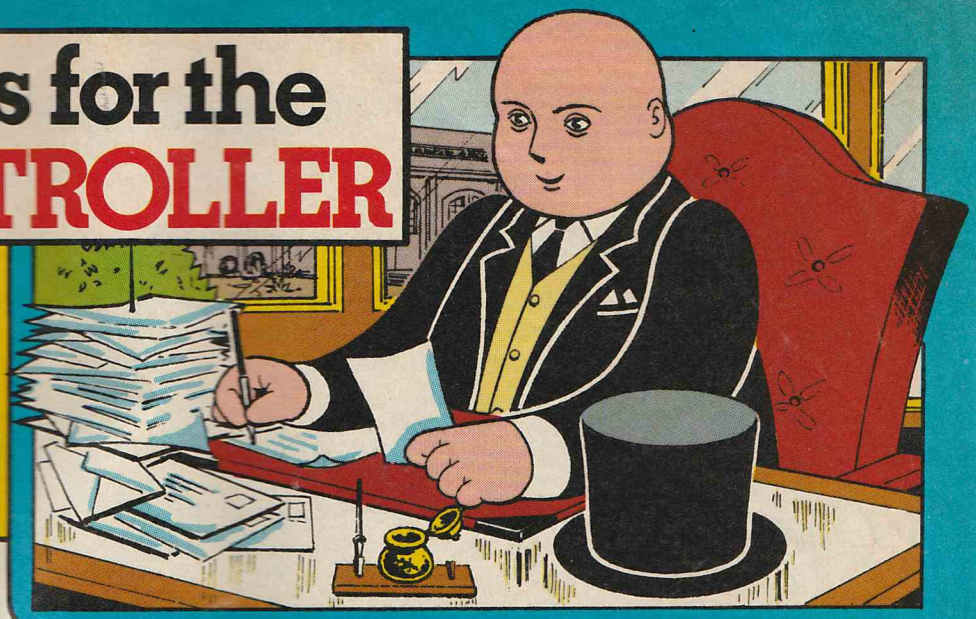
Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
"Bump him! Push him
Off the rails."
Every day, I listen to
the tales
Of **Thomas the Tank Engine** and all his
friends.
Over the hills and
Around the bends.
Trucks, coaches, trains
galore,
I line them up across
the floor.
Pictures and paintings
Of trains on my wall,
I have no favourites, I
love them all!

Love from **Nicholas Edis**, aged 3.

Your splendid verse has won a prize
To write again would be very wise!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid remote control **Thomas the Tank Engine** from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

BEST ENGINES!

Dear Fat Controller,
Thomas the Tank
Engine is the best,
He stands out from the
rest,
Huffing and puffing as
he chugs along,
Happily singing his
favourite song.
Up above the clouds so
high,
Harold the Helicopter
passes by.
It's all aboard the
Railway train,
I'm Thomas! That's my
name!

Love from **Ashley Philip**, aged 5.

Goodness me! We all agree
that you write splendid poetry.
I do hope my engines all arrive on time,
So they can hear your charming rhyme!

CLEANING ENGINES!

Dear Fat Controller,
How often does Thomas
get a bath? My mum
makes me take a bath
three times a week!

Love from **Wynne Seaborne**, aged 2.

Thomas and all his friends are cleaned in the yard regularly so they always look polished and shiny!

BIRTHDAYS!

Stephen Medland, Jason Paul Haofield, Katie Lee, Peter Wooldridge, Peter Frain, Adam Pike, Timothy John Woods, Matthew Turner (34854), Darren Kimmince (7571), Bradley James Mawson, James Bishop, Andrew Roberts, Aaron Giles (38010), David Maidment (34981), Philip Starkey, Simon Cambell (32959), Damian Jackson (21122), Alwyn Jones, Ashley Stevenson (1199), Richard Hampson, Thomas Jancis, Ella Ford, Sarah Murphy, Nicholas Edis, Damian Allix (37105), Robert James Readman, Adam Ajoyes and a special belated greeting to Oliver Clarke.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard at least **9 weeks** in advance!

Yours

Sir Topham Hatt

the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to:

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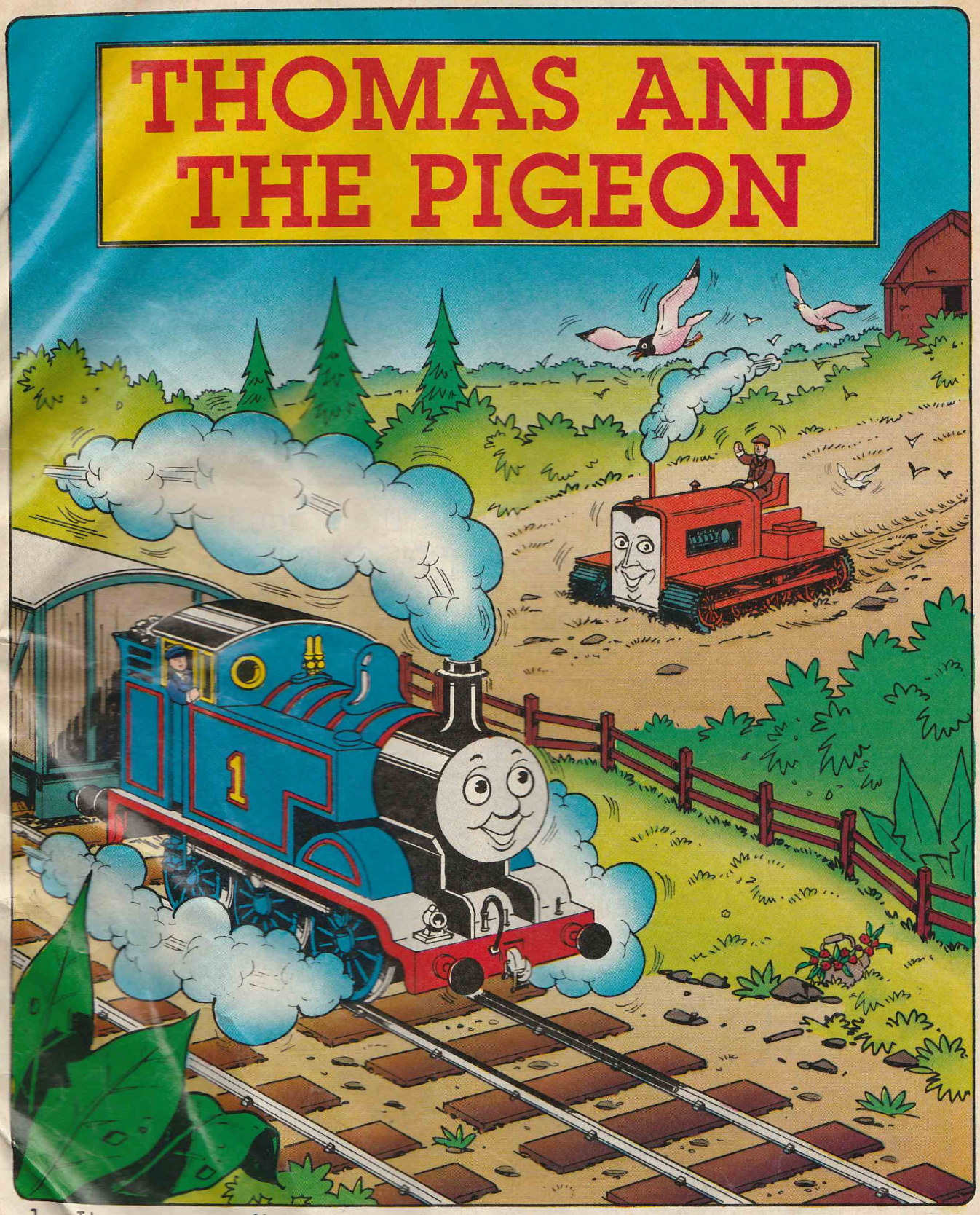
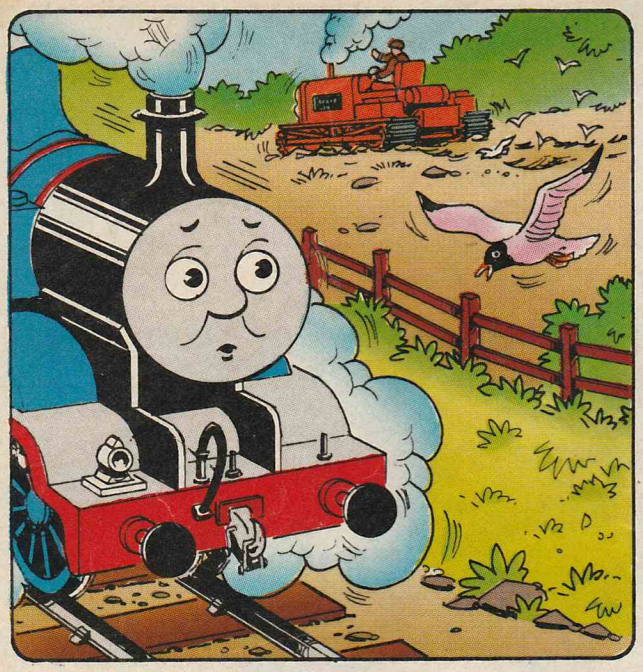
THOMAS AND THE PIGEON

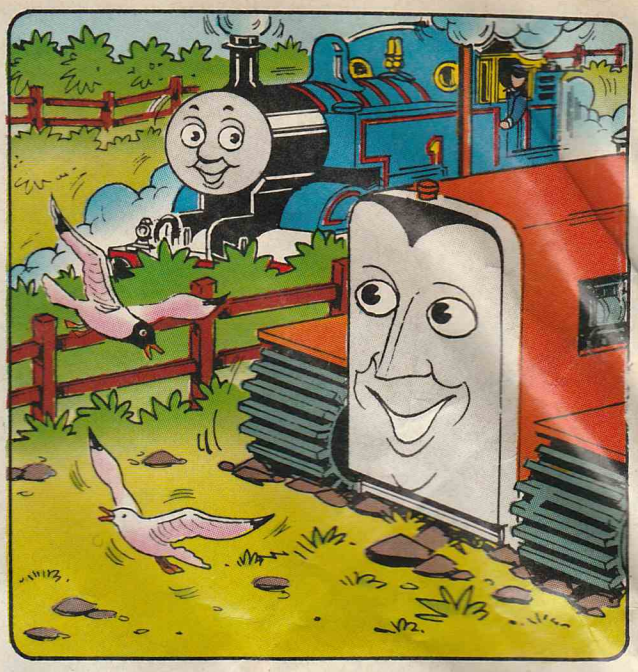


1. It was a fine morning. Thomas was pulling the post train along his branch line. As he passed a hill farm, Thomas saw Terence the Tractor. "Peep! Peep! Hello!" whistled Thomas!

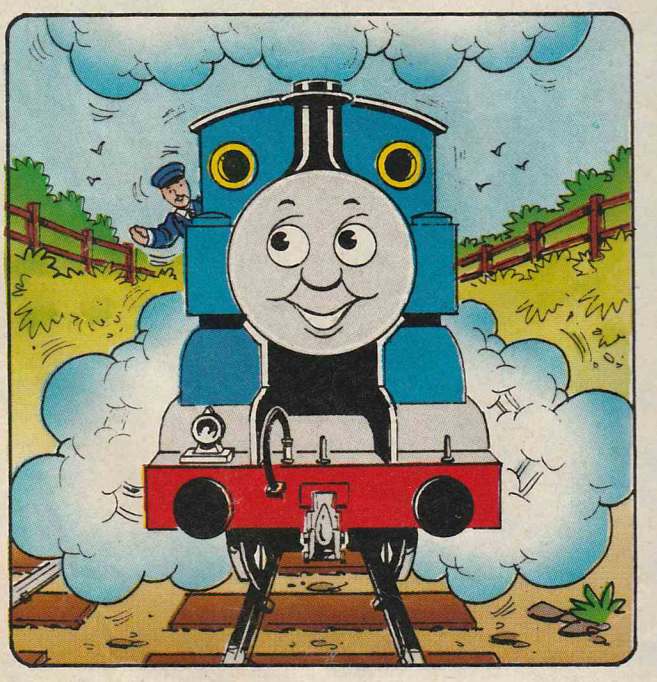
2. Terence was working on the hillside with his driver. His caterpillar treads made deep, straight furrows in the ground. Some seagulls followed Terence as he chugged along.



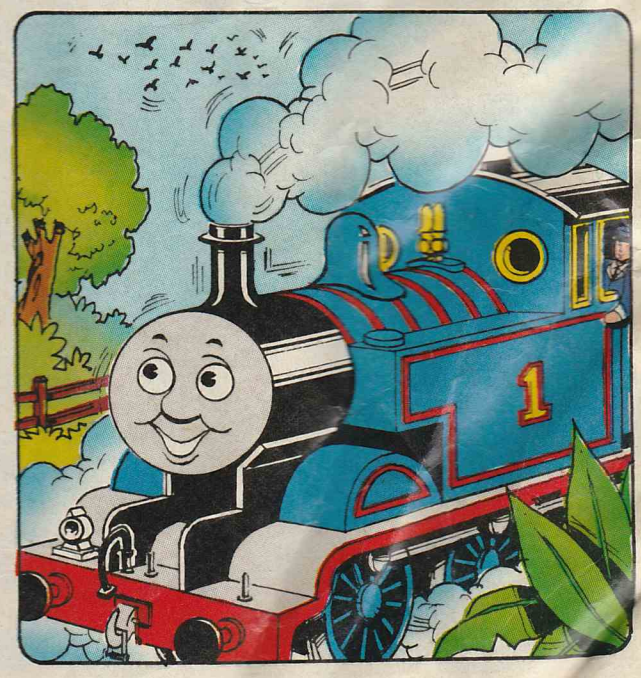
3. Thomas watched the birds. He was puzzled. The seagulls kept landing on the newly turned soil and flying behind Terence again. "What are they doing?" asked Thomas.



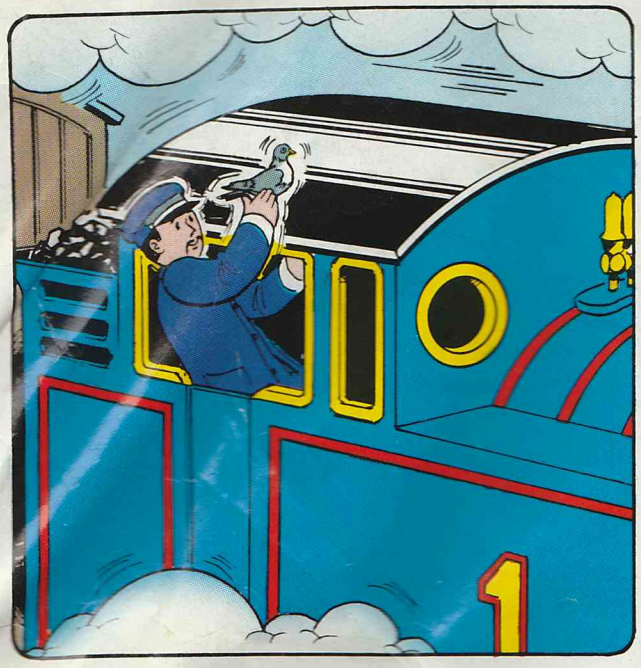
4. "The seagulls are feeding!" replied Thomas's driver. They eat worms that are dug up as the earth is turned. "Terence is helping the birds as well as the farmer!" laughed Thomas.



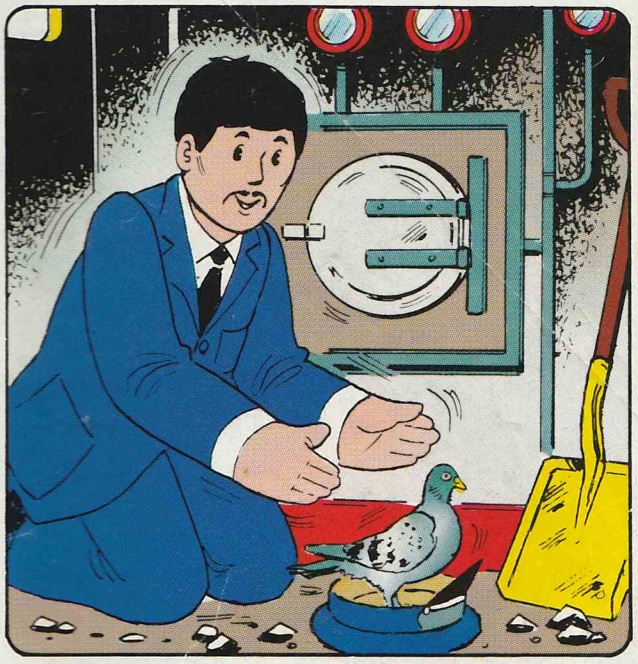
5. "Those seagulls must be very clever to know they can feed behind Terence!" continued Thomas. Thomas's driver told him that many birds fly a long way to find warmer weather.



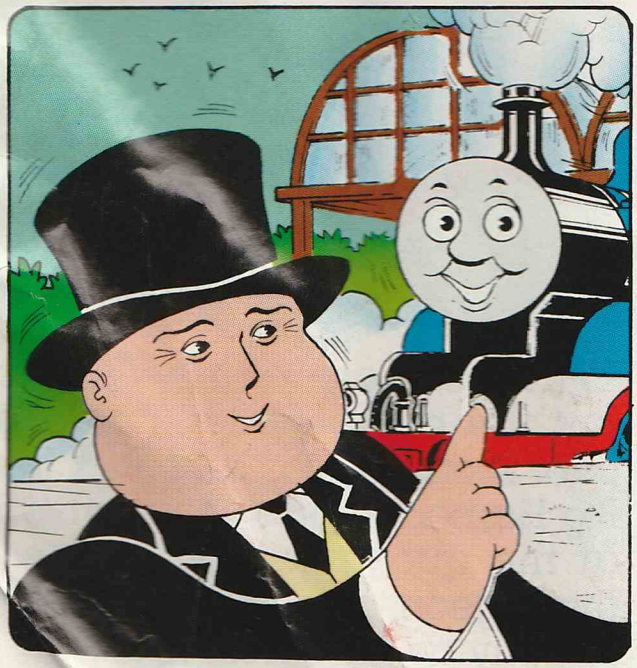
6. Later, a flock of pigeons flew towards Thomas. He was surprised. "Cinders and ashes!" said Thomas. "Why are they following me? I can't feed the birds, like Terence does!"



7. One pigeon landed on the roof of Thomas's cab. The others flew on and were soon out of sight. Thomas's driver picked up the bird. It was very tame. "It's tired!" he told Thomas.

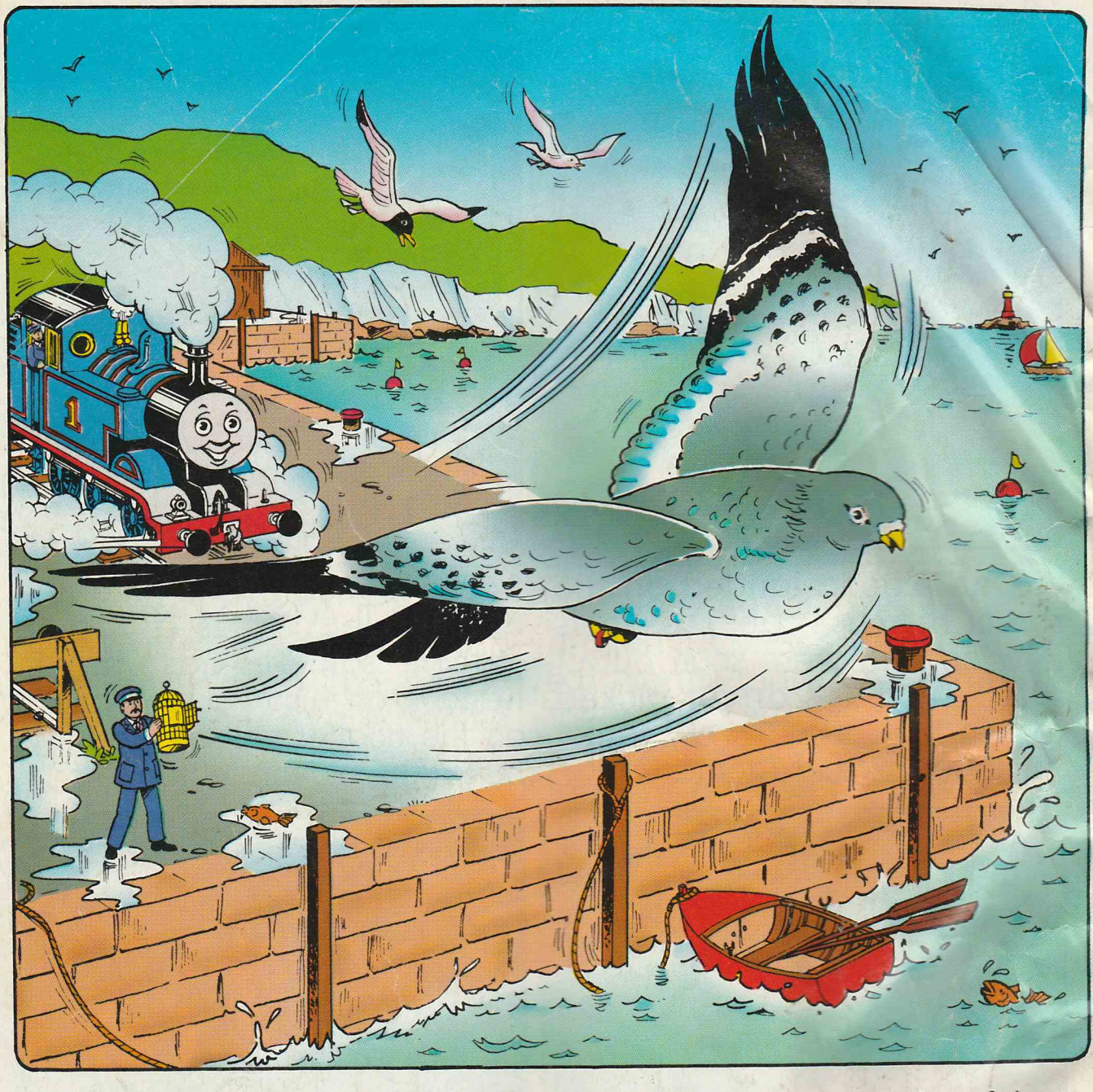


8. The pigeon had a little ring on one leg. "It is a racing pigeon!" said Thomas's driver. he took off his cap and laid it on the floor. Then very gently, he sat the pigeon in it to rest.



9. When Thomas returned to the Main Station, he told the Fat Controller about the bird. "Racing pigeons fly many miles to get home to their owners," the Fat Controller explained.

10. There was a number on the pigeon's ring. "We can find out where the pigeon comes from!" said the Fat Controller. Thomas's driver went to the pet shop to buy corn.



11. The Fat Controller telephoned the pigeon's owner, who lived on the mainland. He was relieved to hear the bird was safe as it was one of his prize racing pigeons. Then, the Fat Controller spoke to Thomas, "When the pigeon has rested and fed, you can help it get home!" he said. That evening, Thomas's driver put the pigeon inside the engine shed.

12. Next morning, the driver put the pigeon into Thomas's cab. Soon Thomas set off for the Big Harbour. When they arrived at the quayside they placed the pigeon outside and it flew happily away across the water. "The pigeon is strong enough to finish its journey home now!" said Thomas's driver. Thomas was pleased they had helped the pigeon.

THE END

In our next issue: Refreshments!